

October 2012

CBT GED begins in Kentucky

GED close-out campaign

Congrats to Rae Smith

New KYAE resource

Regional meeting follow-up

LINGS relaunched

KYAE staff updates

Statewide marketing update

Auditor releases reports

Youth immigration rules

Valuable links

CBT GED® begins in Kentucky

In striving to provide more adult students throughout the state with a high school credential and basic technology skills, the GED Testing Service® (GEDTS), in consultation with KYAE, has introduced the GED® test on computer in Kentucky.

The computer-based test costs \$24 for each content area or \$120 for the complete test. The first 60 test-takers in Kentucky can take the complete computer-based test for \$60 at one of three official GED Testing Centers™/Pearson VUE Testing Centers currently offering computer-based testing (CBT). To receive a coupon to take the test for \$60, test-takers must first receive test-readiness certification through the local adult education center.

The participating testing centers are located at Owensboro Community and Technical College, Somerset Community College and Gateway Community and Technical College in Florence. Additional CBT test centers will be added later this year.

The paper and pencil version of the GED® test will continue to be available for \$60 for the complete test through the end of 2013, when GEDTS, as a joint venture with Pearson VUE, will offer the new 2014 GED® test series solely on computer.

“As society integrates technology into almost every facet of life, and the job market continues to be shaped by technology, adults will need basic technology skills to be successful,” said Randy Trask, president of GEDTS. “Moving the GED® test to computer helps adults demonstrate necessary basic technology skills and makes their testing process easier and more efficient. We are so pleased that Kentucky Adult Education has agreed to help facilitate the implementation of a computer-based alternative.”

Several new services will streamline the testing process and benefit adult students who often need to move very quickly into jobs or training programs. These benefits include:

- Online and toll-free number scheduling and registration that is available 24/7.
- More testing flexibility for test-takers: They can choose when and where to take their test.
- Enhanced test security.

Dr. Jacqueline Korengel, GED Administrator, KYAE, said, “We hope that adding computer-based testing will provide a second option for Kentucky test-takers to take the GED® test and help move us toward the technology needed for the new version of the test scheduled for release in 2014.”

--continued on page 2

The GED® test on computer is the same test currently offered on paper and pencil. Whether a candidate takes the test on paper or computer, it must be taken in person at an official GED testing center™. The GED® test is never offered online.

Additional resources

- [The GED® test is not online.](#)
- [Web pages to help identify and report possible testing scams.](#)
- [State-specific statistics can be found on our website.](#)

About GED Testing Service

GED Testing Service® is a joint venture between Pearson and the American Council on Education (ACE). This business will drive the future direction, design, and delivery of the GED® testing program. Building on the goals of the GED 21st Century Initiative™, the two organizations will combine their collective expertise and resources to develop a new GED® test aligned with emerging national and state standards that will assure colleges, universities and prospective employers that adults who have passed the GED® test are prepared to compete and succeed in a global economy. The GED® test is used by all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, U.S. insular areas, Canadian provinces and territories, the U.S. military, and federal correctional institutions for the purpose of awarding a high school equivalency credential. Nearly 800,000 GED® tests are taken each year, and in 2010, more than 470,000 individuals were awarded their high school credential through the GED® testing program.

GED® close-out campaign

As Dr. Jacqueline Korengel stated above, GEDTS will introduce a new version of the test in 2014. With the introduction of the new test series, all current GED scores will expire; therefore, students who have incomplete or non-passing GED scores and those who test between now and the end of next year should be made aware of the need to complete all parts of the GED test by the end of 2013. Failure to complete all parts will require the student to start all over with the new 2014 test.

To help build student awareness, GEDTS has launched a close-out campaign titled “Your Future is Calling.” To access promotional materials to use in your adult education center, register at the GEDTS [Brand Central](#) and explore the “Your Future is Calling” link. Send any questions you have to amber.williams@GEDtesting.com.

To help reach the 16,000 Kentuckians who have non-passing or incomplete GED scores since 2002 (the previous test version change), adult educators can request a list by county of residence. This list is available through the GED examiner at the local testing center or by e-mailing ged@ky.gov.

To help reinforce this message, students will be required to sign an informed consent document stating they are aware that scores expire at the end of 2013. This document will be required by the test centers.

Congrats to Rae Smith

Rae Smith, associate for GED Services within Strategic Initiatives, was nationally recognized by the GED® Testing Service (GEDTS™), for her dedicated service. In a nomination for the award, Dr. Jacqueline Korengel, director, Strategic Initiatives, wrote:

“Rae has high expectations for GED® Examiners because she has been a Chief Examiner since 1997. In September 2003, KYAE was fortunate to have her join its staff as GED® Associate where she continues her work as an examiner – filling in locally, when necessary, and stepping up to help during times of peak testing demand and temporary capacity needs.

“To ensure her fellow examiners have the resources they need, she not only hosts an annual Examiner Institute, but she went above and beyond to create an on-demand, online course. Yes, this is the same course that is now available nationwide through GEDTS™.

“Typically most of us don’t welcome change; however, Rae has enthusiastically embraced and expressed her excitement over the announced changes to the GED® test and arrival of computer-based-testing (CBT). She has been invaluable – anticipating needs and potential challenges – working with GEDTS™ and Pearson VUE to establish CBT pilots.”

Please join us in thanking Rae for her passionate dedication to GED!

New KYAE resource

KYAE has developed a resource for both new and experienced program directors. Most new directors come to the position with a multitude of questions, most of which are answered in KYAE policy. KYAE has developed a quick reference guide that not only supplies links to the location of those answers, but also puts policy in a context valuable to new directors.

In addition to referencing policy, several useful documents and other resources are highlighted. Though this resource was developed with new directors in mind, and they are encouraged to refer to it often, all directors may benefit from this helpful resource. [Click here](#) to check out the resource page.

Regional meeting follow-up

Please [click here](#) to find PowerPoint presentations and other resources associated with KYAE's most recent regional meetings (August 2012). As soon as we complete compiling the questions and answers and the "two-minute drill" shared practices, we will post them to the same site and a follow-up e-mail announcement will be sent to you.

LINCS relaunched

The Office of Vocational Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, has relaunched the landmark adult educator information website, <http://lincs.ed.gov/>. The new enhanced website provides a collection of quality evidence-based online resources for adult educators nationwide.

One of the most exciting changes to the site is the creation of an online community with 16 topical groups. These virtual communities provide an opportunity for on-demand professional development and networking.

Get involved in the conversations in the LINCS Community, get informed with the latest resources and publications, and get inspired by the new professional development opportunities!

KYAE staff updates

KYAE has recently made several staff changes and has realigned counties into three geographical areas.

- The Performance and Accountability team, directed by David Walters, has been renamed "Program Administration."
- Donna Potter has joined the Strategic Initiatives team directed by Dr. Jacqueline Korengel.
- With Donna's move, counties have been realigned into three geographical areas. D.J. Begley, Billy Crabtree and Don Howerton are now a staff resource to the three areas. [Click here](#) to see the map outlining the new areas. David will provide additional information regarding specifics to their roles as resources/contacts for the three areas.
- Benita Wilhoite and Amanda Walker are working in GED Services with duties in GED® processing and taking GED® calls from the public.
- Elizabeth Kuhn is providing administrative support to the Strategic Initiatives team.
- Marcy Parker has added the Program Administration team to her administrative support duties in addition to Vice President Reecie Stagnolia and System Support directed by Janet Hoover.
- After five years at KYAE, Meryl Becker-Prezocki has left the adult education staff. KYAE contracts with the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) to support the implementation of PowerPath. Through the NCFL contract, Meryl will assist in the deliverables of this project. As a coach, she will provide follow-up visits to answer questions and provide technical assistance and support for PowerPath.
- Ryan Smith, GED Services, recently transferred to the CPE Logistics staff.
- During the recent regional meetings, Reecie discussed the Council on Postsecondary Education's Strategic Agenda, including KYAE's goal to "increase the number of college-ready GED® graduates." He mentioned that KYAE had a plan to accomplish this goal. A part of that plan is the establishment of a new position, Senior Associate for Communications and Outreach, which is posted on the [CPE website](#). The position will be part of Janet's team and will manage KYAE's statewide marketing as well as provide technical assistance to local programs.

For KYAE staff contact information, please see the [online staff contact list](#).

Statewide marketing update

With a \$150,000 investment, KYAE garnered nearly \$1.4 million in TV and radio advertising in 2011-12. KYAE belongs to the Kentucky Broadcasters Association Public Education Partnership (PEP), which gives KYAE radio and TV spots priority in the rotation of public service announcements (PSAs) by TV and radio stations across the Commonwealth.

Through PEP, KYAE is airing National Ad Council-produced TV spots and KYAE-produced radio spots. Last fiscal year, the TV spots were used 2,055 times with an advertising value of \$155,000; the radio spots were used 66,653 times with a \$1.23 million value.

For most of the second half of the fiscal year, the radio spots promoted free GED® testing. These spots have been replaced with a general GED® message. Occasionally, a radio station lets one of the “free testing” spots accidentally slip through. If you hear a “free testing” spot, please contact Janet Hoover, Janet.Hoover@ky.gov, with the station’s call letters so that the broadcasters association can make sure the correct spot is running.

Auditor releases reports

Auditor Adam Edelen has released a series of performance audits on 33 adult education programs funded by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) with grants totaling \$11.9 million in the 2011 fiscal year.

Of the 33 programs audited, 22 programs did not have any reportable exceptions. One program audit resulted in disallowed costs totaling \$4,016, or less than one percent of program funds audited. Each year, CPE selects 25 percent of its programs to be audited. The programs are selected on a rotating basis.

The programs audited are in the following counties: Adair, Barren, Bath, Butler, Caldwell, Campbell, Casey, Christian, Clay, Daviess, Floyd, Garrard, Grant, Hardin, Hopkins, Jefferson, Jessamine, Johnson, Kenton, Larue, Lawrence, McCreary, Meade, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Simpson, Trigg, Washington, Whitley and Woodford. Hardin, Jefferson and Johnson each received two grants that were audited.

These counties provided adult education services to 18,542 students in fiscal year 2011.

The 11 counties with reportable exceptions are: Bath, Butler, Campbell, Christian, Clay, Floyd, Garrard, Grant, Hardin, Kenton and Ohio.

The individual program audits and a summary of all the audits can be found on the auditor’s website.

- [Adult Ed Audits](#)

Youth immigration rules

As reported extensively by national media, youth immigration rules have been revised and may increase students enrolling in adult education. For specifics, please see the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [website](#).

Valuable links

McGraw-Hill Education offers a quarterly newsletter full of great resources for adult educators. In the Summer 2012 issue of [Contemporary eZine](#), the featured topics include new approaches to lifelong learning, an interview with the president of the National Organization for Career Credentialing and a summary of the two main versions of a potentially reauthorized Workforce Investment Act.

Don’t forget to add KET’s Tech Teaching Tips to your monthly reading list. The e-newsletter is full of ideas and inspirations. Be the first to know about the latest educational apps and other instructional resources.

News articles on current events are offered at [The Times in Plain English](#). Articles from major newspapers are rewritten for adult literacy students, English language learners, immigrants and basic readers. The articles are available free of charge.

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